

II. The rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected the above mentioned claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. In Claim 2, the expression "natural circulation" is questioned. Applicants note in this regard that while the term itself (appearing at page 6, line 28 of the specification) is not defined per se, a significant amount of detail and further information is offered immediately following this term and continuing onto the following page 7 regarding how such a "natural circulation" thermosyphon operates and the conditions for its use. The reference in Claim 2 to this term would lead the reader to this detailed information.

In Claims 1-8, the terms "suitable", "carried out", and "sufficient pressure drop" are also questioned, and are considered by the Examiner as not defined or ascertained to a requisite degree and further are such that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of their scope. The term "suitable" appears in Claim 1 part (a), and more specifically "polymerizing an aqueous salt mixture of diacids and diamines suitable to form a polyamide or copolyamide under conditions..." It is respectfully submitted that taken in context, this particular term is used properly. This is because immediately prior to the term, there is provided the polymerization a certain mixture of diacids and diamines; and immediately after the term, there is provided what is formed from this polymerization and under what conditions. Thus "suitable" is a transition phrase intended to link these concepts.

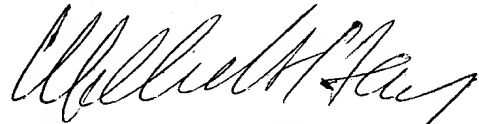
The term "carried out" appears in Claim 2, and again it is submitted that its use as a transition phrase is appropriate. It is intended to link a particular process (the process of the previous claim) to a selected piece of equipment (the thermosyphon).

The term "sufficient pressure drop" appears in Claim 6, and Applicants acknowledge the potential confusion of this language. For clarification, Applicants have amended the claim (as above) to more closely pattern the language of Claim 1.

By following the language of the earlier claim, the nature of the dependency of Claim 6 from Claim 1 should now be more apparent to the reader.

In view of the foregoing amendment and accompanying remarks, and upon further consideration by the Examiner of the reference in question, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition suitable for allowance and that the case may pass to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In showing the changes, deleted material is shown as bracketed, and inserted material is shown underlined.

IN THE CLAIMS:

6. (Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein step (b) is achieved using apparatus having a [sufficient] pressure drop sufficient to remove the water from said reaction mixture while transferring heat thereinto without solidification thereof.



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